

Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2011
District: 05 – Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPEED LIMIT ON HIGHWAY 101 THROUGH PRUNEDALE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT LOWERS TO 55 MPH BEGINNING NOVEMBER 23

MONTEREY COUNTY – On Wednesday, Nov. 23, the speed limit along a 10-mile stretch of Highway 101, between Boronda Road in Salinas to just beyond Echo Valley Road in Prunedale, will be reduced – from 60 mph to 55 mph. This area is where Caltrans' Prunedale Improvement Project (PIP) is currently under construction.

The lower speed limit is being implemented throughout the PIP construction corridor to increase safety for motorists and those working in the area. In 2009, there were 46 fatalities in highway construction and/or maintenance work zones in California; 45 of those were vehicle occupants.

Signs advising motorists of the new speed limit have been clearly posted along the corridor.

In addition to the lower speed limit, drivers need to be aware that fines for moving violations are doubled in the PIP construction area and in most Caltrans work zones. Signs about the double fines were posted along the highway when construction on the project began last spring.

The 101/Prunedale Improvement Project addresses safety and operational concerns along the Highway 101 corridor between North Salinas and Echo Valley Road by upgrading the corridor to freeway status. This upgrade includes closing at-grade intersections and driveways along the Highway 101 corridor that allow left-turn movements across Highway 101.

The \$80 million project is scheduled to be done in winter 2014/15.

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